UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/140
S/25597
14 April 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Items 34, 35, 42, 55, 79, 86,
92 and 149 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA
CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRAQI
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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 14 April 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government I have the honour to transmit herewith, in the Arabic language, the communiqué issued by the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its forty-sixth session, held at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 4 and 5 April 1993 (see annex).

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* A/48/50.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 34, 35, 42, 55, 79, 86, 92 and 149 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali Thani AL-SUWAIDI
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Communiqué issued by the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its forty-sixth session, held at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 4 and 5 April 1993

The Ministerial Council held its forty-sixth session on Sunday and Monday, 4 and 5 April 1993 (12 and 13 Shawwal 1413) at Riyadh under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Rashid Abdullah al-Nuaimi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, and with the following in attendance:

- His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain;

- His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia;

- His Excellency Mr. Yousef Bin Alawi Bin Abdulla, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Oman;

- His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jaber Al Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar;

- His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait.

The Council began its meeting by welcoming His Excellency Sheikh Fahim Bin Sultan al-Qasimi as Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, wishing him every success in his new functions. The Council expressed its high appreciation of the great efforts made by His Excellency Abdalla Yaccoub Bishara, former Secretary-General of the Council, and for his contribution of much effort, time and expertise and wished him every success in whatever functions might be entrusted to him in the future.

The Ministerial Council reviewed developments in the regional and international situation and noted with extreme concern that the Iraqi regime was continuing its threats to the independence and security of Kuwait, repeating its attacks on and violations of the integrity of the international boundary between the two countries, endangering peace and stability in the region and continuing to follow a policy of prevarication and procrastination in the implementation of Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait.

The Council vehemently condemns the aggressive policies and practices of the Iraqi regime against Kuwait and its efforts to evade its international obligations under the terms of the cease-fire. It reaffirms its constant position on the necessity of Iraq's implementation of all the Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait and all the provisions of resolution 687 (1991) relating to the release of imprisoned and detained Kuwaitis and nationals of third States, the demarcation of the boundary, payment of compensation, acceleration of the return of all stolen property and facilitation of the work of the international inspections teams entrusted with the task of eliminating all weapons of mass destruction. The Council calls upon

the international community to continue the pressure on the Iraqi regime in order that it may desist from its course of expansionist aggression and comply fully with all the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The Council expresses profound satisfaction at the adoption of Security Council resolution 806 (1993), providing for the strengthening of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) and the extension of its terms of reference and reaffirming the Security Council's guarantee of the inviolability of the international boundary between Kuwait and Iraq. The Council reaffirms its wholehearted desire for the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq. The Iraqi regime bears full responsibility for the acts of bloody violence and any other human suffering to which the Iraqi people has been exposed as a result of that regime's refusal to implement Security Council resolutions 706 (1991) and 712 (1991) concerning Iraq's requirements of foodstuffs and medicines.

The Council reviewed new developments in relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the issue of the three islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb belonging to the United Arab Emirates. It expressed extreme regret and concern at the unacceptable conditions set by the Iranian side for the resumption of talks on the three islands, which encroach on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the United Arab Emirates, and Iran's refusal to go along with the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in this regard.

The Ministerial Council stresses its censure and total rejection of Iran's claims to the island of Abu Musa and the measures taken by it, which it regards as a threat to security and stability in the region. The Council reiterates its call to the Islamic Republic of Iran to rescind the measures taken by it in respect of the island and to end its occupation of the islands of the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb, because the continuation of that situation will have negative repercussions on relations between the two sides, constitute a threat to security and stability in the region and increase tension there.

The Council recalls the statement in the Final Communiqué of the Abu Dhabi Summit that the development of relations between the two sides is linked to the consolidation of trust between them and to the implementation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of steps that would conform to its adhesion to the principles of good neighbourliness and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States of the region and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States. It reaffirms its solidarity with and full support for the stand adopted by the United Arab Emirates and its support for all peaceful measures and means which it may deem appropriate to restore its sovereignty over its three islands, on the basis of international legitimacy and the principle of collective security.

The Ministerial Council also studied developments in the Middle East peace process and reaffirmed the commitment of its member States to supporting peace negotiations aimed at arrival at a just, lasting and comprehensive solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the question of Palestine based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), the achievement of total Israeli withdrawal from the Arab occupied territories, including Jerusalem, the guaranteeing of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people,

including its right to self-determination, and the establishment of sound foundations to ensure security and stability in the region.

The Ministerial Council commends the efforts being made by the sponsors of the Conference, particularly the affirmation by President Clinton's Administration of the absolute commitment of the United States of America to the peace process, its assumption of a role of full participation and its endeavour to overcome the obstacles holding up the momentum of the talks.

The Council vehemently condemns the Israeli side's violation of the rights of Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories and its practices involving the most repugnant kinds of terrorism, oppression, murder, the taking of innocent lives, particularly those of children, demolition of homes, the continuation of settlement operations in the occupied Arab territories and the deportation of more than 400 Palestinians from their land, in violation of the fourth Geneva Convention. It calls upon the Security Council to take action to ensure the implementation of resolution 799 (1992) concerning the return of the Palestinian deportees to their land.

The Ministerial Council is also following developments in the situation in Somalia and expresses its satisfaction at the fact that the Somali parties have arrived at a national reconciliation agreement. It reaffirms the support of the States members of the Council for the Somali side and calls upon the international community to continue supporting the efforts being made to restore security and stability to that fraternal country, so that it may resume the course of construction and development and play its positive role at the Arab and the international levels.

The Ministerial Council welcomes the Peace Accord in Afghanistan arrived at by the Afghan Mujahidin factions in the blessed month of Ramadan. The Council commends the constructive efforts made by Saudi Arabia as represented in the noble and sincere endeavours made by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, who invited the Mujahidin to renounce their disputes and come to Makkah for a reconciliation. It also appreciates the positive and continuous efforts made by Pakistan to this end. The Council congratulates the leaders and people of Afghanistan on reconciliation and the return of security and stability to this fraternal Muslim country and voices its expectation that Afghanistan will enter on a new phase of stability and peace that will enable it to make up for lost time in its development for the good and prosperity of the Afghan people.

The Ministerial Council has followed with deep concern the continuation of the grievous human tragedy of the people of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, resulting from the continuation by the irregular Serbian forces, supported by Serbia and Montenegro, of their heinous aggression in violation of United Nations covenants and international law and in defiance of international legitimacy.

The Ministerial Council vehemently condemns the Serbian aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the commission by Serbian forces of the most repugnant crimes of ethnic cleansing and of slaughter, organized looting, terrorism, displacement, starvation and the destruction of homes and places of worship and calls upon the Security Council to take all necessary

steps, including the lifting of the arms embargo imposed on the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to enable it to exercise the right of self-defence and resort to military force on the basis of Chapter VII, Article 42, of the United Nations Charter, with a view to restoring international peace and security, compelling the forces of aggression to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy, depriving the aggressors of any rewards by preventing any change in the demographic composition or the acquisition of territorial gains and forcing the Serbian forces to withdraw and respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In this connection, the Council welcomes the Security Council's adoption of its resolution providing for the use of military force to down Serbian aircraft that violate the no-fly zone in the airspace of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a step in the right direction. The Council also expresses its satisfaction at the adoption last February of the Security Council resolution setting up an international tribunal for the prosecution of persons responsible for crimes against humanity in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions. The Ministerial Council urges the international community to strengthen penalties and redouble pressures on Serbia and Montenegro.

The Council reviewed the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Petroleum Cooperation and welcomes its recommendations. Proceeding from the belief of the States members of the Council in the importance of the endeavour to guarantee freedom of international trade and to eliminate and ease restrictions on its flow, and in view of the major importance of the power sector generally, and petroleum in particular, in international trade, the Ministerial Council welcomed the conference of Petroleum Ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and non-member producing States to be held at Muscat on 13 April 1993. It expressed the hope that the Conference would produce effective means of preventing an increase in the tax burden on petroleum and petroleum derivatives, imposed primarily in the major consumer States, inasmuch as such a tax increase would be an impediment to international trade. The Ministerial Council affirmed in this connection the resolve of the States members of the Council to continue negotiations with the major consumer States in order to protect the vital interests of the States members of the Council and strengthen international trade.

In the context of talks between States members of the Council and economic groups, the Council approved the holding of a new round of talks with Japan in June 1993. The Council welcomes the conference of businessmen from the States members of the Council and their counterparts from the United States to be held on 20 and 21 April 1993, and the Council agreed that the secretariat should consult with the United States Government in order to set the date for the forthcoming round of talks. On the subject of the relations of the States members of the Council with the European Community, the Ministerial Council approved the holding of a new round of trade negotiations on 15 and 16 April 1993. The Ministerial Council also discussed the topics to be brought before the next meeting of the Ministerial Council, to be held jointly with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Council and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the European Community, to be held at Brussels on 11 May 1993.